IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An audio signal processing apparatus adapted for delivering an audio signal to a speaker system ~~including~~, comprising:

at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band[[,]]; and

~~the audio signal processing apparatus comprising:~~

filter means for processing the input audio signal on the basis of an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, ~~in order to correct~~ the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the at least two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~thus to deliver, to the speaker system, an audio output signal which has been caused to undergo signal processing by the filter means.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least two drive units ~~or more are caused to be of the configuration in which~~ include a drive unit for reproducing a signal at a high frequency band and a drive unit for reproducing a signal at a low frequency band, and are ~~attached in the state where they are~~ coaxially disposed with respect to acoustic center.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the filter means ~~serves to realize correction characteristic of the impulse response by~~ is an FIR filter ~~to process the input audio signal~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An audio signal processing apparatus adapted for delivering an audio signal to a speaker system ~~including,~~ comprising:

at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band[[,]];

~~the audio signal processing apparatus comprising:~~ first filter means having [[an]] a predetermined arbitrary transmission characteristic ~~which has been determined in advance by measurement or calculation~~; and

second filter means having an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system ~~in order to correct~~, the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the at least two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~thus to deliver, to the speaker system, an audio output signal from the second filter means.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is a frequency characteristic in which a group delay characteristic is constant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is a characteristic for conducting a control such that sound image localization position in the case where an input audio signal is reproduced by plural speakers results in an arbitrary position.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is an impulse response characteristic of an arbitrary room.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the transmission characteristic ~~that~~ of the first filter means [[has]] is an impulse response characteristic of an electro-acoustic transducer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic of~~ speaker or headphone system.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic of~~ record needle.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is a ~~impulse response characteristic of~~ recording/reproducing device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which~~

~~is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is an ~~impulse response characteristic of a frequency characteristic~~ adding unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~impulse response characteristic of an~~ the electro-acoustic transducer ~~which is transmission characteristic that the first filter means has~~ is ~~impulse response characteristic of~~ is an audio amplifier.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first filter means ~~serves to add~~ adds, to the input audio signal, an impulse response characteristic which has been selectively switched among impulse response characteristics of plural kinds of electro-acoustic transducers.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The audio signal processing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the first filter means and the second filter means are ~~comprised of~~ FIR ~~filter~~ filters.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An audio signal reproducing system including:

a speaker system including at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band; and

a signal processing unit comprising filter means for processing the input audio signal on the basis of an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, ~~in order to correct~~ the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective

drive surfaces of the at least two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~whereby the signal processing unit delivers, to the speaker system, an audio output signal which has been caused to undergo signal processing by the filter means.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An audio signal reproducing system including:

a speaker system including at least two drive units ~~or more~~ which are divided or separated by frequency band; [[and]]

a signal processing unit comprising first filter means having [[an]] a predetermined, arbitrary transmission characteristic; ~~which has been determined in advance by measurement or calculation,~~ and second filter means having an inverse correction characteristic [[of]] corresponding to an overall impulse response of the speaker system, ~~in order to correct~~ the input audio signal being processed to compensate for a shift between phases of respective sound waves radiated from respective drive surfaces of the two drive units ~~or more~~ of the speaker system, the shift being caused by the relative physical locations of the respective drive surfaces.

~~whereby the signal processing unit delivers, to the speaker system, an audio output signal from the second filter means.~~